

*Kingston, NY* - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) has successfully worked on behalf of the Hudson Valley Film Commission (HVFC) to resolve an immigration issue that was preventing a German film crew from entering the United States to film a third season of the hit German TV movie series "Katie Fforde." The crew has filmed the show over the past two years in parts of Ulster, Dutchess and Greene counties, spending millions of dollars throughout the region on hotel rooms, catering, equipment rentals and other expenses. Hinchey's office worked quickly to cut through bureaucratic red tape and the visas have now been granted.

"The Hudson Valley Film Commission brought this issue to my attention, and I'm glad we were able to resolve things quickly so that local businesses will continue to benefit from the millions of dollars in economic activity that has been generated by this project over the past two years," said Hinchey. "We acted very quickly to ensure that the filmmakers were able to come here without a disruption to their production schedule. Artists from around the world have recognized the beauty of the Hudson Valley for hundreds of years. I'm glad that we have been able to help continue that tradition."

The Hudson Valley Film commission reports that the filming of "Katie Fforde" generated over \$1 million in economic activity in 2009 and over \$2 million in economic activity in 2010. During last year's 66 day filming period, 15 local crew members were hired, 3,600 hotel rooms were filled and local eateries and caterers were utilized. With a longer filming season scheduled for this year, the economic impact is expected to be even greater now that the immigration issue has been resolved.